

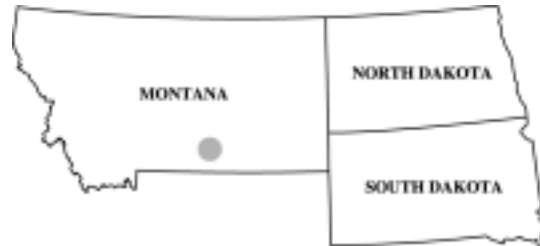


August 2003

## INTERPRETIVE CENTER AT POMPEYS PILLAR NATIONAL MONUMENT

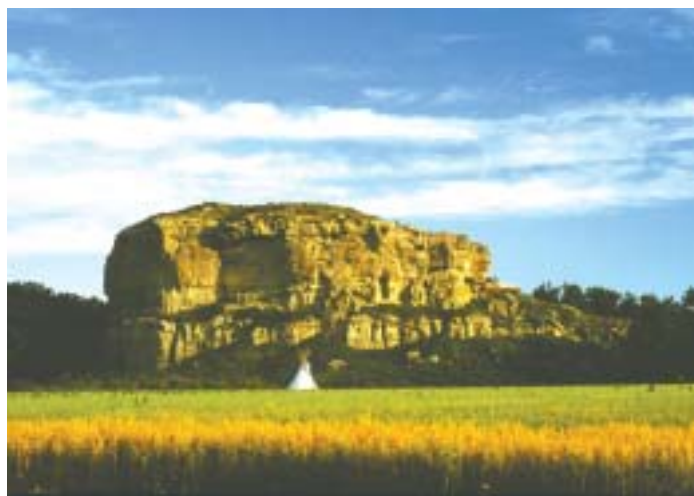
### WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- Pompeys Pillar National Monument has been designated by the National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Council as the site of one of 15 national Lewis & Clark Signature events. The Pompeys Pillar Signature event will be in July 2006.
- The Pompeys Pillar Interpretive Center Environmental Assessment/Amendment has been appealed by one party. BLM is working with the field solicitor to resolve the protest. The appeal is essentially a reiteration of an earlier unsuccessful protest filed by the same party. Design work for the center has been completed and construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2004 with a 2005 completion date.
- As a side note, United Harvest has completed construction of a large, high-speed grain elevator on private lands adjacent to Pompeys Pillar. This project resulted in the National Trust for Historic Preservation listing the monument as one of the 11 most endangered historic sites in the U.S. The Pompeys Pillar Historical Association was unsuccessful in legal attempts to stop the project.



### HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- Pompeys Pillar is a 121-foot sandstone butte 28 miles northeast of Billings, Montana. The only known physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark expedition that is still visible along the trail is Captain Clark's signature which he carved into the Pillar on July 25, 1806. He recorded doing so in his journal.
- The BLM purchased Pompeys Pillar November 22, 1991, for its historic significance and its interpretive and recreational potential.
- In 1992, the BLM constructed limited facilities for the protection of resources and the comfort and safety of visitors. Facilities included a small, log contact station and a stairway to Clark's signature and the top of the Pillar.



- The Pompeys Pillar Historical Association has worked closely with BLM in the acquisition, operation and development of this site. It has also agreed to raise \$2 million to match an FY1999 \$2 million Congressional appropriation to go toward the construction of a new interpretive center.
- In FY2002, Congress appropriated an additional \$2.9 million for construction of the center.
- The site's designation as a national monument on January 17, 2001, was widely supported.

### **WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?**

- We need to remain cognizant of our ability to fund annual operation and maintenance costs. We will need to explore all available means to provide funding to keep the center open, especially since the community has expressed a strong desire to have a year-round facility operation.

### **WHO ELSE IS CONCERNED?**

- Public interest is high regarding both the site itself and construction of an interpretive center.
- Feedback from public meetings, briefings for elected officials, and public comment letters has been generally favorable.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact Richard Kodeski at 406 896-5235.

